



Aruba's best-dressed dogs will be found at the "Let's Talk" Dog Show on July 30!

The "Let's Talk" program instigated by the Aruban Police and headed by Deputy Commissioner Trudy Hassell announced a number of events for the summer to involve the community and raise funds. "Let's Talk" is a proactive plan that was implemented last year aimed at the prevention of drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, and many of the other problems that parents and youth face today. This summer the police and psychologists will conduct a "DART (**D**iscipline, **A**mour (love) **R**espect & **T**olerance) Camp for island youth, and programs for "Let's Talk Kids." During a press conference on Monday afternoon, Ms. Hassell, along with Officer Vianny Coffie of the Visibility Team and Pedro Barrio, canine expert announced a fun day for all the community on July 30 with the "Let's Talk Dog Show 2006."

Pedro Barrio, a veteran trainer and judge announced that the show will be run along the guidelines of the top dog shows, with testing of the owners and animals along the lines required by such events around the world. The "day of dogs" will end with an amusing final competition for the "best dressed dog" in three categories; Swimwear, Casual Wear, and Evening Gown and Tuxedo.

There will be a panel of experienced judges awarding prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in seven categories, six of which are the standard classifications of pure breeds, and one for Crillo, or the local "Cunucu" dog.

Participants do not need to have an expensive breed of dog to be proud of their puppy! The classification of purebreds or "Rasa" will be Companion Dogs, Guard Dogs, Herding Dogs, Sporting Dogs, Terriers, and Mixed Breeds. There will also be a prize for Best Overall, Most Obedient, and Healthiest Dog.

In the "Pets on Fashion Parade" there will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons awarded for Small, Medium and Large Breeds. There will also be additional prizes for "Most Original Dog Outfit, Most Original Theme, Best Poser, and Best in Show." All prizes are being provided by Compra, N.V. the distributors of Alpo products in Aruba.

The organizing committee promises a fun day for all of Aruba and their beloved pets at the Elias Mansur Ballpark in Dakota beginning with last minute registration at 8:30 A.M and ending with the awarding of prizes at approximately 7:00 P.M. in the evening. Aside from the competitions and the doggy fashion show, there will be a demonstration by the K-Nine Corp of the work of Anti-Drug dogs and obedience training. Those wishing to participate are requested to inscribe in advance at the Betico Croes Sport Center in Santa Cruz tonight and also Thursday and Friday, June 22 and 23 from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Advance registration is strongly recommended, and more detailed information regarding the classification of various breeds and the rules of competition will be distributed at that time. The cost of registration is fifteen Aruban florins for small breeds and twenty-five florins for large breeds.

The rules and regulations of the event will be distributed upon inscription, but one point in particular was made during Monday's announcement, and that is the disqualification of particular breeds of dogs in the show. To show their support for the prevention of cruelty to animals, certain breeds that are recognized to be aggressive and often bred particularly for fighting will not be allowed to participate. The American Pitbull and Staffordshire Terrier are examples, and this disqualification includes five other breeds of dogs found on Aruba. For particulars on this matter, individuals can contact the offices of Deputy Police Chief Hassell or Officer Coffie.

Animal Rights Aruba and the Aruba Animal Shelter support the "Let's Talk" Dog Show 2006. It offers islanders an opportunity to demonstrate how much they care about their canines, and the pride and love they maintain in their relationship with "man's best friend." It is also about community support, the humane treatment of animals, and a fun day for all. From the evidence of last year's "Dia di Bestia" fair, it should be a great success!